

OVR Fact Sheet

The Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry's Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) assists individuals with disabilities in obtaining and maintaining employment and independence.

- With nearly \$200M in state and federal funding, OVR's 1,000 employees deliver specific disability services across Pennsylvania from 21 strategically located district offices.
- Last year, OVR served more than 72,000 individuals with disabilities, worked with over 6,000 employers and helped place more than 8,300 individuals with disabilities into competitive, integrated employment, resulting in a return of approximately \$77M in state and federal dollars from individuals becoming competitively employed.
- OVR's core program areas:
 - **Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (BVRS)** – provides services to help individuals with disabilities achieve their employment and/or independent living goals. Individual personalized services include job counseling and placement, assessment services, job training, entrepreneurial assistance and referral services.
 - **Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services (BBVS)** – helps Pennsylvanians who are blind or visually impaired gain the skills they need to live and work independently in their communities. Services include job placement, orientation and mobility training, rehabilitation teaching and independent living skills training. BBVS also administers services to allow seniors aged 55 and older to remain independent in their homes and communities.
 - **Bureau of Central Operations (BCO)** – coordinates the policies, funding and resources that make it possible to simultaneously serve both Pennsylvanians with disabilities, helping them lead productive, independent lives, and the employers of Pennsylvania, helping them meet their workforce needs.
 - **Hiram G. Andrews Center (HGAC)** – one of world's first and largest comprehensive rehabilitation facilities. HGAC offers a wealth of individualized services, including counseling, evaluation, physical restoration and on-site education at the Commonwealth Technical Institute (CTI).
 - **Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH)** – a key provider of advocacy, information and referral services for Pennsylvanians who are deaf or hard of hearing.

OVR provides services to eligible individuals with disabilities, both directly and through a network of approved vendors.

Services are provided on an individualized basis. Certain services are subject to a Financial Needs Test (FNT) and may require financial participation by the customer. Counseling and guidance, diagnostic services, assessments, information and referral, job development and placement, and personal services, such as readers or sign language interpreters, are provided at no cost to the individual. Also, by law, OVR customers receiving Social Security benefits for their disability (SSI, SSDI) are exempt from OVR's Financial Needs Test.

No-Cost Business Services Available!

OVR offers business solutions and consultation services on accommodations, accessibility and assistance to employees who acquire a disability. OVR staff can help employers recruit and hire qualified employees, develop employee retention strategies and learn about disability-related issues.

The [OVR Office Directory](#) will help you find an OVR district office near you. You may refer yourself to OVR and complete an online application at the [CWDS website](#). If you have additional questions about OVR, please call 800-442-6351 or visit our website at www.dli.pa.gov/ovr.

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